

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /156 W

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R 131945Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8701

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

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SUBJECT: GERMAN VIEWS ON THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION

CONFEDERATION (ETUC)

REF: STATE 206701

1. SUMMARY. LEADING DGB OFFICIALS HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST FRENCH CGT AND ITALIAN CGIL AFFILIATION TO THE ETUC AND HAVE INDICATED WCL AFFILIATION TO THE ETUC STILL IS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES. THE INDEPENDENT GERMAN WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS FEDERATION (DAG) ALSO IS FRUSTRATED IN ITS EFFORTS TO AFFILIATE WITH THE ETUC AND TO STRENGTHEN WHITE-COLLAR WORKER UNION PARTICIPATION IN THE EC. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING RECENT TALKS ABOUT THE NEW EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) BETWEEN THE EMBASSY'S LABATT AND HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, DGB PRESIDENT, KARL HAUENSCHILD, PRESIDENT OF THE DGB CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL WORKERS, ALFONS LAPPAS, TREASURER OF THE DGB AND PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE EC, HERBERT STADELMAIER, PRESIDENT OF THE DGB FOOD AND RESTAURANT WORKERS UNION, AND FRAU GERDA HESSE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE DEUTSCHE ANGESTELLTEN GEWERKSCHAFT (DAG), THEY EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS:

A) ON CGIL AND CGT AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC: VETTER AND HAUENSCHILD SAID THAT THE DGB WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE CGT AND CGIL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC AND THAT THE DGB WOULD DISAFFILIATE FROM THE ETUC RATHER THAN ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. LAPPAS ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE CGT AND CGIL COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFILIATE SINCE THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTIES FIRMLY OPPOSE THE CONCEPT OF EC AND WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS, DGB PRESIDENT VETTER ALSO REAFFIRMED DGB OPPOSITION TO CGT AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH FOREIGN SECRETARY GENERAL ANDRE BERGERON.

B) ON WCL AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC: LAPPAS INDICATED NEGOTIATIONS ON WCL UNIONS AFFILIATING WITH THE NEW ETUC HAVE BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE INSISTANCE OF FORMER BELGIAN AND DUTCH CHRISTIAN UNIONS ON KEEPING THEIR PRESENT RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATIONSHIPS WITH THE WCL.

C) ON BRITISH LABOR PARTY AND BRITISH TUC LACK OF SUPPORT OF EC: HAUENSCHILD INDICATED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT

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WITH THE LACK OF SUPPORT OF THE EC BY THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY AND THE BRITISH TUC. ON THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY RESOLUTIONS ON NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRIES, HAUENSCHILD COMMENTED THAT FROM HIS OBSERVATION DURING RECENT VISITS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM THE RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE USED FOR COMPENSATION UNDER ANY OF THE LABOR PARTY'S PROPOSALS FOR NATIONALIZATION PROGRAMS COULD BE BETTER USED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN IMPROVING WORKER HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. HERBERT STADELMAIER, PRESIDENT OF THE DGB FOOD AND RESTAURANT WORKERS UNION, ALSO DECRIED THE BRITISH TUC RESOLUTIONS AGAINST THE EC, BUT HIS UNION IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO TRY TO STRENGTHEN MORE BRITISH TUC PARTICIPATION IN THE EC AND A GERMAN DGB-TUC DIALOGUE ON EC CO-OPERATION. LAST WEEK THE DGB FOOD AND RESTAURANT WORKERS DELEGATION FOR TALKS ABOUT LABOR PARTICIPATION IN THE EC AND OTHER MATTERS.

D) ON DAG AFFILIATION TO THE ETUC: DAG VICE PRESIDENT GERDA HESSE SAID THAT THE INDEPENDENT DAG WAS REPRESENTED AS AN OBSERVER AT THE FOUNDING CONGRESS OF THE ETUC. LIKE THE INDEPENDENT SWEDISH AND FINNISH COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNIONS, THE GERMAN DAG WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE TO THE ETUC. HOWEVER, THIS IS UNLIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE DUE TO THE OPPOSITION OF THE GERMAN DGB. THIS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES THE PAST PATTERN OF OPPOSITION OF THE DGB TO THE AFFILIATION OF THE SEPARATE GERMAN DAG. TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHERE THE DGB CLAIMS SOLE REPRESENTATION AS THE GERMAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER.

E) ON THE NEW EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL, CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES: FRAU HESSE INDICATED THAT THE DAG STRONGLY SUPPORTS AN ACTIVE ROLE OF THE ICCTE IN EC AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, THIS PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN HINDERED BY THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE ICCTE BEING IN GENEVA RATHER THAN IN BRUSSELS WHERE THE FULL STAFF RESOURCES COULD BE CONCENTRATED MORE ON PARTICIPATION IN EC AFFAIRS. THE PRESENT ONE-MAN ICCTE OFFICE IN BRUSSELS, SHE ADDED, IS INSUFFICIENT TO FULLY REPRESENT THIS REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IN EC AFFAIRS.

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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